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Contact: Álvaro Fernández
Phone: (347) 475-9357
Email: alvaro@monolithicfilms.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Production Begins on *Mosolov's Suitcase*, Feature Biopic of Soviet Avant Garde Luminary; César-Nominated Kirill Emelyanov Cast in Title Role**

Monolithic Films, Iconoclastic Features, and independent German producer **Max Gutbrod** have announced the start of production on ***Mosolov's Suitcase***, their feature biopic of **Alexander Mosolov** (1900-1973): composer, bad-boy dandy, and forgotten genius of the Soviet avant garde. The film is directed and co-written by **Matthew Mishory** (*No Place of Exile*; *Joshua Tree*, 1951). **Kirill Emelyanov**, who was nominated for a Best New Actor **César (French Oscar)** in 2015, has been cast as the mercurial Mosolov. Principal photography begins on-location in Moscow, Russian Federation, on March 12th.

For a decade, beginning in the 1920s, Mosolov was the foremost composer of the Russian avant-garde. A dandy and hard drinker, he developed a reputation for bar fights, love affairs, and professional rivalries.

Following his banishment from Moscow in the **Stalinist Purges**, Mosolov reinvented himself in the Steppes of central Asia. He returned to Russia years later to **smuggle his musical scores to the West**, reporting them missing in an infamous "stolen suitcase". The film features the world premiere recording of Mosolov's 5th Symphony, conducted for the production by Arthur Arnold and performed by the Moscow Symphony Orchestra.

This is helmer Mishory's fourth imaginative exploration of notable artists of the 20th century. It follows films about Derek Jarman, James Dean, and Artur Schnabel. ***Mosolov's Suitcase*** will adopt a **hybrid narrative-documentary format**.

Kirill Emelyanov, an accomplished actor in his native Russia since the age of five, received international acclaim for his break-out performance as the con artist Marek in Robin Campillo's **2014 drama *Eastern Boys***. The film won the Horizons Prize at the 70th Venice Film Festival, and Emelyanov was later nominated for a César.

Spaniard **Álvaro Fernández** (*No Place of Exile*, for Arte) will produce with the Moscow-based Gutbrod (*Absent*). Mishory's long-time collaborator **Michael Marius Pessah** (*The*

Deleted; Joshua Tree, 1951) will lens on super16mm. Filming will take place at Mosfilm, storied home to Sergei Eisenstein and Andrei Tarkovsky.

“Like so many of the stories I find myself drawn to, **it’s a story of not belonging**,” says director Matthew Mishory. “Even in the most thrilling, revolutionary artistic movement of his time, **Mosolov never quite fit in**. To this day, **he’s largely misunderstood**.”

Fernández: “Mosolov's gripping story of intrigue, deception, and secrets is so intensely cinematic, **it plays like a spy thriller**. We’re truly excited to finally bring it to the screen.”

Gutbrod: “Mosolov's wonderful music has still not received its due, despite the end of Communist rule in Russia. Musicologist Inna Barsova has struggled audaciously for years to bring him back to light. The opportunity to work with her and with filmmaker Matthew Mishory to **resurrect Mosolov in a visionary context** is a thrilling opportunity.”

The film is slated for a 2019 release.